



# MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH  
1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247  
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Rev. John Iwohara

## Gardena Buddhist Church



### September 2024

Volume LVII No. 9



**Rev. John Iwohara**

### “The importance and meaning of ritual”

Ritual is an important aspect of our daily lives. For example, we use expressions like “morning ritual” to describe how we typically begin our day. Because of things like this, we often see ritual as habitual. Whereas it’s

not wrong to say that ritual can be habitual, it is much more than this. Ritual helps us to “frame” our world, and helps us to see that there is pattern and consistency in our lives. This aspect of ritual is one of the reasons why it is important in religious observances.

Pattern and consistency is important in religious observances because all religious traditions are rooted in their Truth. Truth is not something that is meant to change. Imagine how chaotic our lives would be if Truth had a tendency to change. As an example, when we were children, some of us used to play a game that might be called “opposite.” In this game, children will play with words and decide that during play words like “up” and “down” would change meaning. “Up” will suddenly have the meaning of “down,” and “down” will have the meaning of “up.” The fun in the game would be to see how difficult it is to change perspectives,

and then to catch each other “misusing” terms. Even after we got home we might still be playing and expected our parents to join in on the “fun.” When our parents made a mistake we would complain and explain, “No, mommy. No, Daddy. Up is down, and down is up now.” In my experience, my parents would typically smile and then ignore the game. For grown-ups, there usually isn’t enough time in the day to suddenly change perspectives like that.

One of the Truths that all Buddhist traditions are rooted in is the truth of impermanence. This Truth seems to complicate things, but the Truth of Impermanence, itself, does not change. This Truth is revealed in many aspects of our ritual. For example, the flowers in the altar are changed regularly. We change the flowers because of this truth of impermanence. We could, for instance, switch to plastic flowers and save on cost, but this would make it harder for us to experience the truth of impermanence. It is the ritual, or the pattern of changing flowers on a consistent and regular basis that reminds us of the truth of impermanence. Fortunately (or perhaps unfortunately) flowers do not wither right away. It is because of this that everyone is able to attend services and is always greeted with fresh flowers on our altar. A more

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immediate experience of impermanence comes with the ritual of incense burning.

With incense burning, the moment the grain of ground incense touches the heat source in the incense burner, the grain is immediately changed to smoke and ash. From this, we are further taught that impermanence does not necessarily mean “termination,” or “obliteration.” Impermanence can also be understood in terms of “transformation.” It is “change.” This aspect of impermanence is especially important when the ritual act of incense burning is held together with the ritual service observance of the funeral.

The importance and significance of maintaining ritual also helps us to understand how we continue to be connected with our past. Rituals, although they may change over time, have been passed down from one generation to the next. This transmission helps us to appreciate what we have received from the past. The maintenance of ritual, what we might call tradition, is how we honor that past. Ultimately, however, the past that we honor is the very establishment of the religious tradition that gave rise to the ritual in the first place.

Ritual, especially with the passage of time, becomes more important because we no longer live during the time of the founding of the tradition. We do not, for example, have the

ability to speak directly to Sakyamuni Buddha or to Shinran Shonin. We no longer have direct access to the living embodiment of the teaching that has been passed down to us. Although this is true for everyone—regardless of whether the person be of our past, present, or future—it is especially important for us to experience how these Truths are lived in our lives in the present. This, unfortunately, is easier said than done. For example, like all things, language also changes. Because of this, over time, it becomes harder to maintain access to the source material or what we call doctrine. As time passes, more effort is required to maintain that access. Ritual is also important in helping to maintain that access. Ritual helps us to participate in how the doctrine can be lived, and helps to show us how doctrinal truths are revealed. Ritual is more than habitual. It is not simply maintaining something because it is how it has always been done. It is also constantly helping us to ask, “Why?”



Some of you may have already met her at the temple, but we are happy to announce that *Ms. Yasuka Back* has been working with us as a Saturday office staff member since August 10th.

If you are visiting on a Saturday, please feel free to stop by the office and say hello. We look forward to seeing you there and working with Yasuka!



**Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 18 at 7PM  
Zoom**



# Hui Aikanes

The anticipation of planning, meeting, and disseminating shifts for working in the Obon booths has come and gone. Thank you to Nadine, Sharyl and the Obon committee for another successful year. Thank you also to our members who helped work in the various booths during the Obon festival.

Some of our members attended the performance of "Little Mermaid" at the Armstrong Theater on August 10th. Everyone who attended was entertained by the many talented actors, and production team. We especially like to recognize Louise Mayemura for assisting with the costume design for the performers. She is quite talented!

Thank you also to Lynn Isomoto for inviting our members to participate in the ABA's Harbor Cruise on August 25th. The food was delicious and music by Nishi's ABA Sonics was most entertaining. It was nice to meet everyone and spend some time at our local harbour with our church members and members from other Buddhist Temples.

Our next meeting and potluck are scheduled for October 5th at 12 pm in the Social Hall. We are planning to discuss future Hui Aikane activities and enjoy each other's company. For more information regarding our potluck meeting, please contact either Charlene Nation, David Nakamoto, or Jane Nakamoto. Please join us!

New members are welcome to attend! Hawaiian ancestry is optional!



## ABA News (Adult Buddhist Association)

August was such a hot and busy month! It started with Obon. ABA members could be found all over – be it leading the dances in the dance circle, preparing food in the different booths, or running around behind the scenes. It was so nice to see friends – new and old – join us in the festivities. Thank you to EVERYONE for making Obon another success!

The month ended with us going around the Long Beach Harbor on a cruise. Thank you to Lynn Isomoto for planning such a fun event! Not only could we watch the beautiful shoreline go by us, but we also had the opportunity to listen to the sounds of ABA Sonics from Nishi during the cruise.

September is the biggest month for us, as we prepare to host our annual bingo night on Saturday, September 28. To go together with the bingo, dinner will be "anything on rice" – a donburi! We will have our cup raffle and members are busily dusting off their cookbooks to prepare delicious snacks for the bake sale. We hope to see everyone at bingo!

Our next meeting, which will be hybrid, will be on Sunday, September 15 at 11:30am.

See you then!



**BINGO**  
Sponsored by ABA  
**Saturday, September 28 at 5PM**

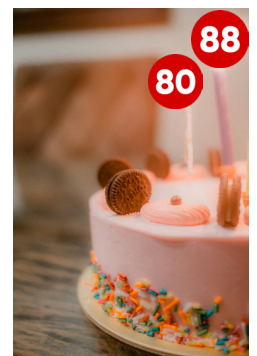






## Happenings:

- ◇ 2025 BWA Japanese Seminar – Rev. Kodo Umezu will be our speaker. Southern District Temples will also be invited to attend. Kathy Hori has kindly offered to create the flyer for this event, scheduled on February 1, 2025.
- ◇ GBC BWA 100th Anniversary Planning Committee:
  - Guest speaker for special luncheon: Rev. Yukari Torii from San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple.
  - Bento fundraiser date needs to be pushed back since we don't have enough time to make a September event. We've decided to make Beef Sukiyaki Donburi. Committee is meeting after monthly BWA meeting and will determine new bento date. Details will follow shortly.
- ◇ August 11 (Sunday) – Monthly BWA meeting. Thank you E/a gumi for providing the variety of delicious snacks at our meeting.
  - Report from coordinating council meeting:
    - ▶ Jr YBA. Thanked everyone for supporting their Recycle Day in July. They will be planning another Recycle Day later this year, so everyone please save your cans and bottles.
    - ▶ 2025 Fun Day. Hui Aikane sponsored Fun Day for 2024, and is looking for another group to team up together for 2025. (It will be held the last Sunday of June; and next year won't necessarily have to be a Hawaii theme.)
    - ▶ BEC.
      - 9/1 BCA will conduct a 125th anniversary telethon on the internet. Members will be sent the URL to log on and view this special event.
      - Reminder that Shotsuki Hoyo service will start in-person (only) from November. Going forward, monthly Shotsuki Hoyo Service will be on the first Sunday of the month at 2:00pm.
    - ▶ PIF. Sangha Teens in charge. Event planning is on hold for the time being.
- ◇ Social Hall Kitchen renovation project. Kathy Hori presented and explained the ideas that are being considered to renovate the social hall kitchen for the GBC's 100th anniversary in 2026. Updated equipment, plan designs and layout were shown to the members, who expressed great interest and enthusiasm.
- ◇ September 21 (Saturday) Fall Ohigan Seminar with guest speaker Rev. Yushi Mukojima. Theme: Buddha's Compassion. Japanese session from 9am-11am; English session 1:30pm-3:00pm. A/b gumi providing breakfast and snacks.
- ◇ September 22 (Sunday) Ohigan Service. BWA preparing ohagi for otoki. Rice cooking starting from 5:00am; general assembly from 6:00am.
- ◇ September 29 (Sunday). BWA 80/88 Birthday Party. This year we'll be celebrating the birthdays of Emiko Sasaki and Tamiko Watanabe. Service followed by offsite lunch. Invitations will be sent out as soon as the restaurant venue is secured.



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- ◇ October 4-6 (Fri-Sun) 2024 BCA FBWA Conference hosted by Coast District at the San Jose DoubleTree Hotel. Registration is \$300. Reverends Motoyoshi and Mukojima will be speaking at the Japanese sessions.
  - Due to the FBWA Conference occurring on 10/4-10/6, our monthly October BWA meeting will be changed to October 13th. This is also the same day as our BWA Memorial Service. We will conduct an abbreviated monthly meeting during our traditional lunch, immediately following the BWA Memorial Service.
- ◇ October 13 (Sunday) – Lady Eshinni/Kakushinni Service. Imogene will chair.
- ◇ October 13 (Sunday) – BWA Memorial Service. Service will be conducted at 11:30am, followed by an offsite lunch. Nancy Yoshiyama will make the reservations at Seashore Chinese Restaurant.
- ◇ October 19th (Saturday) – Southern District Conference hosted by San Diego. 10am-6:30pm. Theme: “For the Nenbutsu”. Keynote speakers: Bishop Marvin Harada (Eng) Rev. Hibiki Murakami (Ja). Sign up sheet will be passed around at our September meeting.
- ◇ Reminder to Toban Leaders: Please make certain the next Toban leader receives the Toban bag at the beginning of the month.

**Announcements:**

- ◇ September 8th (Sunday) - September Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). A/b Gumi
  - GBC BWA 100th anniversary committee meeting – will be held immediately after the BWA monthly meeting.
- ◇ September 16th (Monday) - Meinichiko Service – via Zoom
- ◇ September 22nd (Sunday)- Coordinating Council Meeting 11:30am. Imogene will attend
- ◇ October 13th (Sunday) – October Meeting will be conducted on the same day as our BWA Memorial Service, during the luncheon. B/c Gumi
- ◇ October 16th (Wednesday) - Meinichiko Service – via Zoom

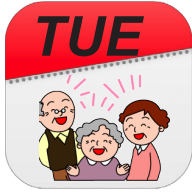
*In Sympathy*

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of the following who have left our world to be One with Amida Buddha. Namo Amida Butsu.

Fukui, Michiyo	(87)	April 12, 2024
Suda, Yuriko	(84)	July 7, 2024
Saito, Seiko	(91)	July 17, 2024
Hamaguchi, Tamaka	(97)	July 31, 2024
Nakamura, Nancy Sachiko	(98)	August 1, 2024
Mikamo, Edith Hisako	(95)	August 8, 2024



**Megumi Deadline is Monday, September 16, 2024**



## TUESDAY SOCIAL

The summer season is coming to an end. Thank you all for your patience with our irregular schedule during the last 3 months. Although Tuesday Social will not meet on September 3, we will start again with our regular gatherings on Tuesday, September 10, 9:30 – 11:30am. We will resume our delicious potluck on the September 10 gathering and thereafter, our potlucks will be on the first Tuesday of each month.

Sometimes we lose sight of the purpose of our gatherings ... especially when there is so much delicious food. Our focus is Socializing. Connecting with church members, friends, and others in our community. We want everyone to feel comfortable, laugh, and have a good time. We hope to start new programs and routines this year. Stay tuned, more to come.

The weather is still hot and humid. Please take care and stay hydrated. See you on Tuesdays.

## Dharma School News

Hope everyone had a great summer.

The first day of Dharma School will be on September 8, 2024. We will be having our annual Ice Cream Social after service on that day. Also, a reminder to all parents, make sure your register your children. On September 29, 2024, we will be presenting the Perfect Attendance Awards.

We would like to thank the dharma students and parents who helped with the games, selling drinks and helping in the Central Pick up area during Obon. It takes everyone's help to have a successful Obon so thank you very much.

Let's have a great school year.



## YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

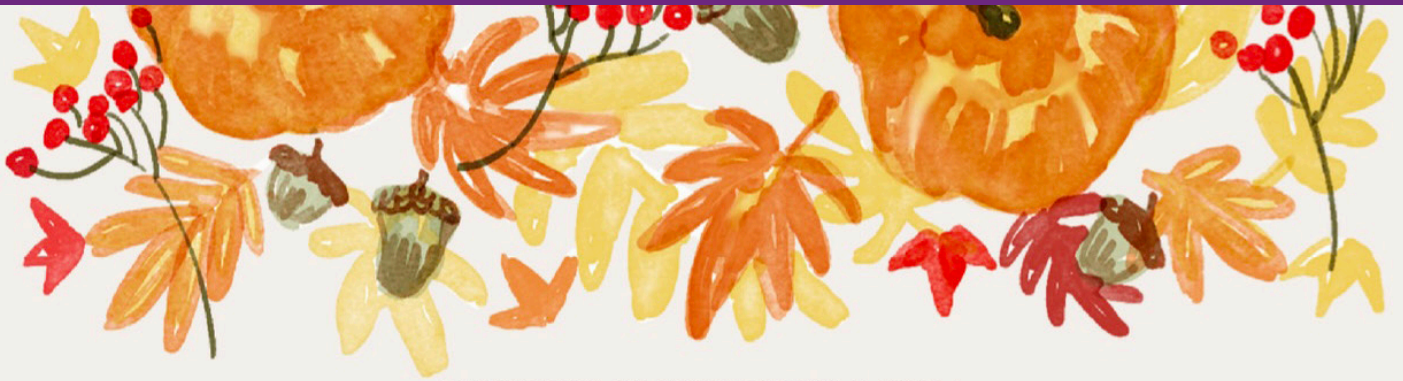
We ended summer with a Bonfire at Bolsa Chica State Beach. It was wonderful to spend time with everyone and making smores by the fire.

Looking forward, we will be trying out a new YABA meeting time starting in September. We will meet in the social hall on Sunday September 15th at 11:30am. Please join us!

Upcoming Meetings  
Sun. Sept 15th 11:30am Social Hall  
Sun. Oct 20th 11:30am Social Hall

Feel free to reach out to us at [yaba@gardenabuddhistchurch.org](mailto:yaba@gardenabuddhistchurch.org)





GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH  
PRESENTS

# FALL OHIGAN 2024

GUEST SPEAKER

**REV. YUSHI MUKOJIMA**

RESIDENT MINISTER OF  
MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST  
TEMPLE



**SEMINAR: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

仏の慈悲 / Buddha's Compassion

午前9時半～午前11時 - 日本語 | 1:30 PM-3:00 PM - English

**SERVICE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

9:30 AM (午前9時半)

Dharma School, English, and 日本語 messages  
by Rev. Yushi Mukojima

[WWW.GARDENABUDDHISTCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.GARDENABUDDHISTCHURCH.ORG)







# Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster  
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

We are accepting Student Interest Forms for the Gardena Buddhist Church 2025 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program for students going into the 7th, 8th or 9th grade in the Fall of 2025.

Please submit the 2025 Student Interest Form to [charlene.hirotsu@gbcwisteriachugakko.org](mailto:charlene.hirotsu@gbcwisteriachugakko.org). You may also submit them to the Gardena Buddhist Church mailbox or mail to:

**Gardena Buddhist Church (Wisteria Chugakko)**  
1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247

## 2025 Wisteria Chugakko Student Interest Form



Gardena Buddhist Church  
**Wisteria Chugakko**  
1517 W. 166<sup>th</sup> St.  
Gardena, CA. 90247  
(310) 327-9400  
[wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org](mailto:wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org)



### Gardena Buddhist Church Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program

Reverend John Iwohara, Gardena Buddhist Church Resident Minister, Headmaster  
Charlene Hirotsu, Wisteria Chugakko Principal

### Student Interest Form

**June 16 – July 9, 2025**

I am interested in registering for Wisteria Chugakko for the Summer of 2025.

**I will be in the 7th, 8th or 9th grade in the Fall of 2025.**

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Student's Gender Pronoun Preference
Student's Date of Birth	Student's Grade in Fall 2025	Student's School District
Father's Last Name	Father's First Name	Father's Cell Number
Mother's Last Name	Mother's First Name	Mother's Cell Number
Father's Email Address	Mother's Email Address	Buddhist Church Affiliation (Gardena, Senshin etc.)

# 2025 Wisteria Chugakko Brochure

## Wisteria Chugakko Daily Schedule

8:30-8:55	9:00-9:25	9:40-10:25	10:30-11:15	11:15-12:10	12:15-1:00	1:05-1:50	1:55-2:40	2:45-3:30	3:30-6:00
Morning Assembly Sign-in	Morning Service	Period 1 (45 mins)	Period 2 (45 mins)	Lunch	Period 3 (45 mins)	Period 4 (45 mins)	Period 5 (45 mins)	Period 6 (45 mins)	After School Supervision

Students will have multiple teachers in the following content areas:

### Teachers and Staff

- Calendaring
- Calligraphy
- Car Mechanics
- Cardmaking
- Cooking
- Crocheting
- Drawing
- Event Planning
- Excel
- Filmmaking
- Flower Arrangement
- Haiku Poetry
- Incarcere Talk
- Japanese
- Japanese Bookbinding
- Japanese Etiquette
- Japanese Tea Ceremony
- Jodo Shinshu Buddhism
- Jodo Shinshu Rituals
- Kachi Kachi Making
- Keyboarding
- Kokedama
- Learning Our History
- Learning Spreadsheets
- Lei Making
- Obon Dancing
- Origami
- Papermaking
- Photography
- Podcasting
- Robotics
- Sashiko
- Sewing/Shibori
- Shakyo
- Shuji
- Storyboarding
- Survival Bracelet
- Taekwondo
- Taiko
- Wood Tile Trivets
- Yukata Dressing

- Aponte, Kimberly
- Baba, Miyako
- Fujii, Janet
- Fujikawa, Gary
- Fujimoto, Fumie
- Fukuji, Barbara
- Harada, Erie
- Hiramoto, Debbie
- Hirotsu, Charlene
- Hirotsu, Russell
- Hirotsu, Stephanie
- Hirotsu, Stan
- Hori, Kathy
- Ikeda, Bev
- Imada, Brian
- Imada, Imogene
- Inose, Kay
- Isomoto, Lynn
- Iwasaki, Irene
- Iwohara, Rev. John
- Kakazu, Kazuyo
- Kakimoto, Nadine
- Kawamura, Ken
- Kishimoto, Eric
- Komai, Joann
- Kondo, Kyoko
- Kita, Alan
- Lai, Ming
- Maruyama, Phyllis
- Mayemura, Louise
- Mayemura, Tommy
- Mekaru, Naomi
- Miyamoto, Mike
- Miyashiro, Marie
- Miwa, Alan
- Miwa, Christine
- Miya, Arleen
- Miyaji, Rev. Nobuo
- Motoyasu, Aya
- Murata, Jan
- Nakagawa, Mae
- Nakahira, Ann
- Nakakura, Doris
- Nakamoto, David
- Nakamoto, Jane
- Nakatani, Lily
- Nishihira, Joe
- Nishihira, Violet
- Nishimura, Elaine
- Nishimura, Patti
- Quon, Rev. Kory
- Sasaki, Emiko
- Sato, Doreen
- Sauer, Dick
- Shimizu, Gary
- Shimizu, Linda
- Shimizu, Mitzi
- Takao, Dianne
- Takahima, Debbie
- Tsurata, John
- Uehara, Harumi
- Umezue, Rev. Amy
- Uyemura, Ty
- Wong, Verna
- Yamanaka, Jeanne
- Yasaki, Allie
- Yasaki, Chris
- Yasaki, Megan
- Yoshiyama, Rose



Especially created for incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th Grade Students (in Fall of 2025)

### Gardena Buddhist Church

★ 1517 W. 166th Street  
Gardena, California 90247

#### From 91 or 110

- Exit West on Artesia
- Right at Normandie
- Left at 166th
- Church will be on the right
- Parking Lot on the Left (P)



#### From the 405

- Exit Northbound on Normandie
- Left at 166th
- Church will be on the right
- Parking Lot on the Left (P)

Please join the Gardena Buddhist Church **Wisteria Chugakko Summer School**



Monday, June 16 - Wednesday, July 9 2025

Reverend John Iwohara  
Gardena Buddhist Church Resident Minister  
Wisteria Chugakko Headmaster

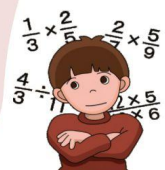
Charlene Hirotsu  
Wisteria Chugakko Principal

Gardena Buddhist Church  
1517 W. 166th Street  
Gardena, California 90247  
1(310) 327-9400

wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

### Mission Statement

The Wisteria Chugakko (Middle School) is established to enrich the academic experience, and the religious and cultural understanding of its students in order to develop academics and a greater appreciation for the potential and dignity of human and all life.



# GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH OBON 2024

Obon 2024 has come to an end! It was a fantastic weekend! We hope that you enjoyed all the Obon Festivities.

A Big **Arigato** to:

- *Obon Committee* who worked hard in the planning of the event.
- *Booth Heads, Affiliated Organizations, Volunteers and Friends* who worked in the booths.
- *Sangha Members and Volunteers* who came to help set up, tear down, and work at Obon
- *Dharma School Teachers* for leading the dancing.
- *Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts* for volunteering in the various areas.
- *Ministerial and Office Staff* for your support.
- *Tech Crew* for setting up all the dance practices and the dance circle.

**Thank You** to Our Donors

JFC International, Sparklettes Water, Glenn Wong, Shin-Sen-Gumi, Yamada Company, US Bank, Dr. Neal Natsumeda, King's Hawaiian, Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

**Thank You** to our Sangha, the Community Members and Other Temple Members who came out to support our Obon. We had over 1,100 dancers on Saturday and over 1,000 on Sunday.

We appreciate all of your support in making Obon 2024 a success.

Please complete the survey on our website which will help us plan for future Obons.

In Gassho,  
Nadine Kakimoto & Sharyl Yamada-Oda



# Excerpt from Gardena Valley News • Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024

Photos by Gary Kohatsu

## Thank you for always covering our Obon festival!

### Gardena Valley NEWS

www.gardenvalleynews.org

Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024 120th Year No. 33 Still 25 cents

**MAYOR TASHA CERDA**  
INVITES ALL TO THE  
**25TH ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL**  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH  
ROWLEY PARK



## GBC celebrates Obon Festival 2024

Check out the GVN online

Find this week's stories, plus exclusive content at gardenvalleynews.org. Follow us at: Facebook.com/GardenaValleyNews, Twitter: @gardena\_news, and Instagram: @gardenvalleynews. Tag us, follow us, and see comments, pics and videos.

**LOCAL NEWS**  
Pig waste dumped near Gardena, suicide at nearby EC College. Page 2

**COMMUNITY UPDATES**  
Star concert with all local events during the year. Page 2

**SPORTS**  
Prep football teams now in action; Paris Olympics close. Page 3

**POLICE BLOTTER**  
Learn about local crime as GPD maintains the law. Page 4

**PETS TO ADOPT**  
Spot the cat and Ono the dog would love to meet their forever parents this week. Page 5

**PHOTO ESSAY**  
2024 OBON ODORI Annual Gardena Buddhist Church event captures pagantry of religious dance. Page 6-7



Local officials honor the two-day Gardena Buddhist Church's 2024 Obon Festival on Aug. 3-4. From left are Scott Houston, immediate past president of the West Basin Municipal Water District, presenting a presentation; Nadine Kakimoto, festival co-chair; Ara Ara, field deputy of LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, presenting a certificate of recognition to the GBC; Obon Committee Sheryl Yamada-Gida, festival co-chair; and Ross Nishimura, GBC board chairperson.



GBC Dharma teachers and board members gather for a group photo. Front row from left, are Irene Igawa, Irene Iwasaka, Claire Ohara, Nadine Kakimoto, Mitzi Shimizu, Hope Hamamoto, Naomi Mekaru and Chizuko Morimoto. Top row are Alan Kita, Lauren Kawahara, Yasuko Takemoto, Arleen Miya, Imogene Imada, Kim Quon and Susan Mukai.

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### Joy of Bon Odori



Dharma teacher Kim Quon seems pleased as daughter Kaci, 8, follows her lead in a dance at the Gardena Buddhist Church's annual Obon Odori. The annual street dance and carnival were presented by the Gardena Buddhist Church. Kim is the wife of Venice Hoopwangji Buddhist Temple Rev. Kory Quon.



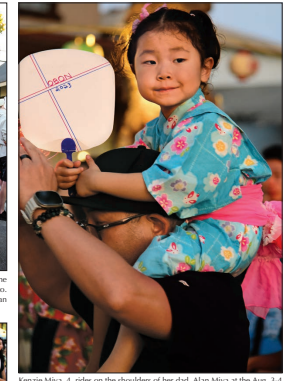
Alan Kita, former chairman of the GBC board of directors, who chairs the GBC coordinating council, is absorbed in a dance during the church's Bon Odori.



Naomi Mekaru leads participants in a dance. The GBC dance along HalliLale Avenue between Gardena Boulevard and 16th Street took place on Saturday and Sunday evenings, Aug. 3-4. A carnival on both days preceded the Bon Odori.



GBC Dharma teachers and board members gather for a group photo. Front row from left, are Irene Igawa, Irene Iwasaka, Claire Ohara, Nadine Kakimoto, Mitzi Shimizu, Hope Hamamoto, Naomi Mekaru and Chizuko Morimoto. Top row are Alan Kita, Lauren Kawahara, Yasuko Takemoto, Arleen Miya, Imogene Imada, Kim Quon and Susan Mukai.



Kenzie Miya, 4, rides on the shoulders of her dad, Alan Miya at the Aug. 3-4 GBC Obon Odori. Kenzie, her mom Lauren, and dad were visiting Gardena from Aloha Heights, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Dharma teacher Arleen Miya of the GBC is Kenzie's grandmother.



Dharma teacher Irene Igawa and daughter Kayla Igawa show their grace in a Bon Odori dance. Although not shown, Irene's grandsons, Wesley (9) and Eric (6), also took part in the dance festivities on Aug. 3.



Imogene Imada puts some emotion in a dance, as others follow. As to how and which songs are selected for the Odori, Imada said, "the Southern District Obon Dance committee recommends around six dances or so, and then each individual temple can add additional dances."



Representing Chachi Kai LA area from left, Kim Kobashigawa, Annee Budai (background), Yuku Yamauchi and Jojo Kamiya. The ladies are performing on the sashiko and Kamiya on the taiko. Yamauchi has been the executive director of the Obon Association of America in Gardena since January 2017.



Lauren Kawahara leads the Yagi Bushi dance, in which the movements tell the story of sake making.



Nadine Kakimoto dances on the speaker's platform at the Aug. 3-4 Bon Odori. "Obon is essentially a memorial service honoring the memory of the deceased; however, that is as far as it goes in coexisting with other memorial services," as posted on the GBC web page.



Obon Odori emcee Brian Imada takes time to dance with church and guest participants. The Bon Odori included dancing along HalliLale Avenue which was coordinated by Gardena police, taiko performance and a carnival on the Gardena Buddhist Church grounds.



Arleen Miya is one of many Dharma teachers with the Gardena Buddhist Church. The street dance took place during the evenings of Aug. 3-4. Prior to the Bon Odori, there were several practice sessions at the church in July. Claire Imada Ohara shows her dance form, energy and enthusiasm at this year's Bon Odori. Behind her is husband Matthew Ohara.





# Boy Scout Troop 242 Newest Eagle Scouts

Congratulations to Troop 242's newest Eagle Scouts!! The troop honored Ashton Liu, Manu Akiyama and Chase Wada at their Eagle Court of Honor on August 17, 2024. Ashton and Chase did their Eagle projects at our Temple.



# Boy Scout Troop 242

Our active Boy Scout troop has been on several outings: Summer Camp was at Emerald Bay on Catalina. The scouts earned several water-based merit badges and also did a Wilderness Survival overnight where they had to build their own shelter with logs and sticks and sleep in this shelter without a sleeping bag.



(Continued on page 13)



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Another group of Scouts spent a week at Camp Big Horn in the Lake Arrowhead area.



And then a large group of Scouts spent several days hiking at Big Sur.



## CUB SCOUT PACK 1230

Pack 1230 went on a Father's Day weekend camping trip. Scouts stayed in their tents at Camp Trask and enjoyed many activities including archery, hiking, swimming, gold panning, target shooting with BB guns and slingshots. Bear sightings added some extra excitement to the weekend. Cub Master Terry came home with a bear paw print left on his car!







# Girl Scout Troop 4345

The Junior 2 girls enjoyed a day at an Escape room, dinner and ice cream together as they prepare to enter Middle School and bridge over to our Cadette 1 grade level.

The Daisy 2 (1st grade) girls and Junior 1 (4th grade girls) will all be going to El Ranchito Camp this weekend where the Junior 1 girls will be staying overnight in tents without their parents and only with their Leaders.



## September 2024

- 1 Sunday Service - CANCELLED
- 2 Temple Closed—Labor Day
- 3 Tuesday Social - CANCELLED
- 4 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 7 Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom 10:00am
- 8 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- BWA mtg (In Person & Zoom) 11:30am
- 10 GBC Forward! Zoom mtg 7:00pm
- 15 Jr. YBA mtg 8:45am
- Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- ABA mtg (In person & Zoom) 11:30am
- YABA mtg 11:30am
- 16 Meinichiko Service via Zoom 7:00am
- Megumi Deadline
- 18 GBC Board mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 21 Fall Ohigan Seminar Japanese 9:30am
- English 1:30pm
- 22 Sunday Ohigan Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- Coordinating Council mtg 11:15am
- YABA mtg 11:30am
- SDDSTL mtg - Workshop 1:00pm
- 25 GBC 100 GenOps Com. mtg via Zoom 7:30pm
- 27 DS Teacher's Study Class via Zoom 7:00pm
- 28 ABA Bingo & Anything on Rice Dinner 5:00pm
- 29 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- Dharma School Perfect Attendance
- BWA 80th/88th Birthday Celebration 12:00pm

## October 2024

- 2 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 4-6 2024 FBWA Conf. at the San Jose Double Tree Hotel
- 5 Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom 10:00am
- Hui Aikane Election mtg & Potluck 12:00pm
- 6 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- Sangha Teen mtg 10:30am
- 8 GBC Forward! Zoom mtg 7:00pm
- 13 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Memorial Service
- BWA Members Memorial Service 11:30am
- BWA mtg (In person & Zoom)
- 16 Meinichiko Service via Zoom 7:00am
- GBC Board mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 19 2024 Southern District Conference in San Diego
- 20 Jr YBA mtg 8:45am
- Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) 11:30am
- YABA mtg 11:30am
- 21 Megumi Deadline
- 23 GBC GenOps Com. mtg via Zoom 7:30pm
- 27 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- Coordinating Council mtg 11:15am

### <Regular Activities>

- Sunday:** Isami Taiko Practice @11:15am weekly
- Monday:** 2nd & 4th Community Projects @9:30am
- 2nd & 4th Cub Pack 1230 mtg @6pm
- Tuesday:** \*Tuesday Social (irregular during summer)

- Wednesday:** Ikenobo/Ikebana Class @2pm 3/month
- Thursday (or Saturday):** Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am
- Thursday:** 1st & 3rd Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm
- Friday:** 2nd & 4th Girl Scout Troop 4345 mtg @7pm
- Saturday (or Thursday):** Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am

*We truly appreciate your continued support!*

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 7/22/24 - 8/18/2024 with gratitude and appreciation.**

### Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Hirokane, Laurie                      Kawano, Masako                      Suda, Sadao                      Takano, Jane

### Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Akahoshi, Masato	Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Matsumoto, Shunji	Takano, Jane
Anonymous	Kawamoto, Dean	Mori, Doris	Tanaka, Nancy
Awane, Diane	Kawamoto, Derrick	Moromisato, Yasuichi	Torichigai, Sandra
Fujioki, Emma	Kawano, Masako	Nakakura, M/M Ken (2)	Tsuge, Marilyn
Hirokane, Laurie	Kimura, Katsuhiro	Nakamura, Alan	Uyemura, Jean
Igawa, M/M Wayne	Kurata, Hiroko	Nakamura, Kimi	Uyeno, Chris
Imamoto, Eiko	Maeda, Stacy & Cindy	Osa, Susan	Watanabe, Makoto
Inouye, Ben	Maeda, Tom	Sasaki, Sherry	Yamada, Joyce
Inouye, Juliann	Masukawa, Yoko	Shimizu, Gary	Yokoyama, Elaine
Iwamoto, Dianne (2)	Matsuda, Hiromi	Suda, Sadao	Yoshiba, Yoshie

### Obon/Hatsubon Hoyo Donations

Altuna, Carolyn	Inouye/Sakuda	Kubota, Lota	Suya, Kikuo
Bohannan Family	Iwamoto, Dianne	Nakashima, M/M Harvey	Takabayashi, Beryl
Ego Family	Iwamoto, Irene	Okamura, Rodney	Tanaka, Grace
Hoo, M/M Danny	Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Ozawa, Marshall	Terao, Carolyn
Ikeda Cambra, May	Kita, M/M Alan	Shimono, Barbara	Tomiyoshi, Ruby

### 2024 GBC Membership Dues

Jodi Miyamoto                      Keith Tanaka                      Kikuo Suya                      Susan Suya

### Special Donations

Baker, Chiyo                      Kubota, Lota                      Wisteria Chugakko

### Nokotsudo Donations

Torichigai, Sandra

### Osaisen

Sakatani

### General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

So. Dist Jr. YBL (2)

## 『友達』

宮地美子師

今年の5月、帰国した時に、旧知の友ご夫妻に会うことができました。彼女とは小倉西高校で知り会ったのですが、電車通学で途中から彼女が乗ってくる経路にあり、遅刻しないギリギリの電車の時間に私たちは乗り合って学校に通いました。当時は西鉄路面電車で時刻が決められていたわけでもなく特に朝の時間帯には5分おきに電車は通っていました。満員電車なのに間違い無く私が乗っている電車に乗ってくるのは神技ともいえます。帰りは座ることができたので、ゲラゲラ笑いながら時には深刻な話もしながら、とにかく話をするのが楽しみでした。当時は16歳前後ですから“箸が転んでもおかしい”と言われる時期です。あまりゲラゲラ笑うので前に座っていたおじさんに、『うるさい!』と叱られた事もありました。叱られたことがおかしくて、声を出さずに肩で笑って、周りにはひんしゆくを買った事でしょう。彼女は東京都品川区に住んでいるのですが、我々が京都の聞法会館に宿泊しているとわかると車で東京から来てくれました。



不思議なもので長年会っていないのに会うと瞬間に時空を超えて、あの当時のままの立ち位置で話すことができるのです。学生時代を共に過ごした密度が高かったせいでしょう。

私たちは人生に何人かの友達を得ることができます。人によっては友達と呼べる人が多数おられる方や私のように5本の指に収まる人もいるでしょう。人数はともあれ私たちには友達と名のつく人が必要です。何かしら悩みを相談したり、現状を納得し合ったり、過去を語り楽しむ相手です。そしてその友が先に亡くなりでもしたら深い悲しみが訪れるでしょう。

人口何十億の中から同世代に生き、たまたま同じ学校に通い、そして数多いる学生の中から信頼できる人と出会うのです。これほど不思議なことがあるのでしょうか。

“御同朋、御同行“という言葉が浄土真宗にはあります。お寺で共に仏様のお話を聴聞しているお友達のことです。年代こそ不揃いですが、お寺に集まって同じご法話を聞いている人々をこう呼びます。ありがたい言葉です。ここはアメリカです。カリフォルニア州です。ガーデナです。仏教会です。浄土真宗です。そして2024年の秋を共に生きています。どういうご縁で私たちは巡り合っているのでしょうか。

ここまで人との出会いについて述べてきましたが、それよりももっとも大事なる事を忘れてはいけませんね。

私たちは南無阿弥陀仏のみ教えに遇わせて頂いています。これこそ稀有（けう＝まれ）な事です。

三帰依文の中に

\* 人身(にんじん)受(う)けがたし、今(いま)すでに受(う)く。仏法(ぶつぽう)聞(き)きがたし、今(いま)すでに聞(き)く。

人間に生まれることは難しいけれど私たちは人間に生まれた。仏法に出遇う(であう)ことは難しいけれど今聞かせてもらっている。

\* みずから仏(ぶつ)に帰依(きえ)したてまつる。みずから法(ほう)に帰依(きえ)したてまつる。みずから僧(そう)に帰依(きえ)したてまつる。

仏(阿弥陀仏)、法(仏の解かれた真実)、僧(サンガ)仏のお話を共に聞く人々を敬って生きましよう、と言われていました。

私たちは一人で聞法することは本当に難しいのです。友達(法友)に出遇えたことを喜びましよう。

(注) 出遇う＝であう 計画的にはではなく、たまたまであう時にこの字を使います。







## 婦人会便り

### 婦人会の通常の活動（敬称略）

- ▽ 2025 BWA日本語セミナー：梅津広道師が講師を務めます。南部地区の寺院も招待されます。イベントは2025年2月1日に予定されており、堀キャシーがフライヤーを作成してくださるようになっていきます。
- ▽ GBC BWA 100周年記念計画委員会：
  - 特別昼食会のゲストスピーカー：サンフェルナンドバレー本願寺の鳥居ゆかり師。
  - 弁当ファンドレイザー：9月のイベントの準備時間が足りないため、日程を延期する必要があります。牛すき焼き井を作ることに決まりました。委員会は月例会議後に集まり、新しい弁当の日程を決定します。詳細は後日お知らせします。
- ▽ 8月11日（日）：月例会議。E/a組の皆さん、会議に美味しいお菓子を提供していただきありがとうございました。
  - 附属団体連絡協議会からの報告：
    - ▶ Jr YBA：7月のリサイクルデーへの支援に感謝しています。年内にもう一度リサイクルデーを計画する予定なので、皆さんは缶と瓶を集めてください。
    - ▶ 2025ファンデー：Hui Aikaneが2024年のファンデーを主催しましたが、2025年に向けて一緒に協力して下さる別のグループを探しています。（2025年のファンデーは6月の最終日曜日に開催される予定で、来年のテーマはハワイに限定する必要はありません）
    - ▶ BEC：
      - \* 9月1日：BCAが125周年のテレソンをインターネットで実施します。メンバーにはこの特別イベントを視聴するためのURLが送られます。
      - \* 祥月法要：11月から祥月法要は対面のみで行われます。これからは毎月第一日曜日の午後2時に開催されます。
  - PIF：サンガティーンズが担当しています。イベントの計画は現在保留中です。
- ▽ ソーシャルホールキッチン改修プロジェクト：堀キャシーが、2026年のGBC100周年に向けたソーシャルホールキッチンの改修案をプレゼンテーションしました。最新設備、計画デザイン、レイアウトが紹介され、メンバーたちは大いに関心を示しました。
- ▽ 9月21日（土）：秋のお彼岸セミナー。ゲストスピーカーは向嶋裕史師。テーマは「仏の慈悲」。日本語セッションは午前9時から11時まで、英語セッションは午後1時30分から3時まで。A/b組が朝食とスナックを提供します。
- ▽ 9月22日（日）：お彼岸サービス。BWAが御斎の「おはぎ」を準備します。炊飯は午前5時から開始し、おはぎ作りは午前6時からです。
- ▽ 9月29日（日）：BWA 80/88歳の誕生日パーティー。今年は佐々木恵美子さんと渡辺民子さんの誕生日をお祝いします。サービスの後にオフサイトのランチがあります。レストランの場所が確定次第、招待状をお送りします。
- ▽ 10月4-6日（金-日）：2024 BCA FBWA会議が沿岸教区主催でサンノゼダブルツリー・ホテルで開催されます。登録料は300ドルです。モトヨシ先生と向嶋先生が日本語セッションでお話をされます。
  - FBWA会議が10月4-6日に開催されるため、10月の月例BWA会議は10月13日に変更されます。この日はBWA先亡者追悼法要も行われます。法要後の伝統的なランチの際に短縮版月例会議を行います。



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- ▽ 10月13日（日）： 恵信尼公/覚信尼公追悼法要： 今田イモジーンが担当します。
- ▽ BWA追悼法要： 法要は午前11時30分に行われ、オフサイトのランチがあります。吉山ナンシーがSeashore Chineseレストランの予約を行います。
- ▽ 10月19日（土）： 南部教区会議がサンディエゴ仏教会主催で開催されます。午前10時から午後6時30分まで。テーマは「念仏のために」。基調講演者：原田マーヴィン総長（英語）、村上響師（日本語）。9月の会議で参加申込用紙をお返しします。
- ▽ 当番リーダーへのリマインダー： 次の当番リーダーが月の初めに当番バッグを受け取るようにしてください。

**アナウンスメント:**

- ▽ 9月8日（日） 9月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番A/b組  
ガーデナ仏教婦人会創立百周年記念委員会  
会議一例会直後に開催
- ▽ 9月16日（月） 命日講（Zoom）午前7時
- ▽ 9月22日（日） 附属団体連絡協議会 午前11時30分 今田イモジーン出席予定
- ▽ 10月13日（日） 10月婦人会例会は婦人会先亡者追悼法要と同日に昼食中に開催。当番B/c組
- ▽ 10月16日（水） 命日講（Zoom）午前7時

**ガーデナ仏教会  
お盆祭り2024**



**秋季彼岸法要**

9月22日(日)  
午前9時30分

ガーデナ仏教会本堂&Zoom

ご講師：向嶋裕史師(マウンテンビュー仏教会)

**秋季彼岸セミナー**

9月21日(土)

午前9時30分 日本語  
午後1時30分 英語

ご講師：向嶋裕史師(日英両語)